

BLM Cedar City Field Office
Site Inspection Report

Nov. 4, 2003

To: UTU-80508 (formerly SITLA Volcanic Lease ML-40197)
Ranch Canyon Pumice Mine
Bradshaw Perlite & Pumice

From: Ed Ginouves, CCFO Mining Engineer

Subject: Site Inspection

On Nov. 3, 2003, I visited the Ranch Canyon site. The purpose of the visit was to inspect and document reclamation which I had directed the operator to perform during our 9/25/2003 joint inspection of the site (see prior inspection report). The operator had called and left a message on Oct. 29 that the work had been completed was ready for inspection.

The weather was overcast with scattered snow showers; there was 1"- 2" of fresh snow on the site.

Inspection Findings: As directed, the cabin structure had been entirely removed, as well as the junk vehicles and other junk on site. The outhouse and picnic tables had been left in place, which I had told the operator was OK.

The ~¼ mile length of access trail that lead from the cabin area to the eastern edge of Sec. 2 had been pocked with a backhoe at 10'-20' intervals alternating down the length of the road. The pocks were holes 3'-4' square and 3' deep with the excavated material stacked in a pile adjacent to the hole. While the pocking method wasn't what I had in mind (I had expected more holes, with each hole being smaller), the pocking performed by the operator will effectively block all but foot travel down the trail and will allow natural re-seeding to re-vegetate the trail disturbances. The pocked material is soft, loose material composed mainly of pumice fines so the mounds and holes will be less pronounced after several seasons of weathering.

No photographs were obtained.

Recommendation: The work performed is adequate to allow for full release of the reclamation bond being held by the BLM for this site.

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BLM Cedar City Field Office Site Inspection Report

Sept. 26, 2003

To: UTU-80508 (formerly SITLA Volcanic Lease ML-40197)
Ranch Canyon Pumice Mine
Bradshaw Perlite & Pumice

From: Ed Ginouves, CCFO Mining Engineer

Subject: Site Inspection

On Sept. 25, 2003, I met with the operator, Mr. Neil Bradshaw on site. Via certified letter dated Sept. 3, 2003, BLM had directed Mr. Bradshaw to perform certain reclamation tasks to obtain reclamation bond release. Mr. Bradshaw had requested an on-site visit with me to make sure the work he performed would be in accordance to that required in the letter.

The previous site visit had been made on April 10, 2003, at which time I documented the site disturbances and formulated recommendations for reclamation measures needed to obtain bond release.

The weather was clear and warm and site conditions were dry.

During the visit I specified directed Mr. Bradshaw that the access trail leading from the cabin area to the eastern boundary of Sec. 2 would have to be reclaimed by deeply pocking the surface of the trail continuously along its length to a degree that access by any form of motorized vehicle would be very difficult. I told him not to disturb any of the old mine areas or side-cast material adjacent to this access road because of the advanced state of re-vegetation in these areas.

I also directed Mr. Bradshaw to demolish and remove the cabin, and any remaining junk vehicles or scrap metal from the cabin area. I told him it would be OK to leave the picnic tables adjacent to the cabin.

Mr. Bradshaw indicated he would complete the work this fall and would be using a backhoe to perform the reclamation and demolition work. I told him as soon as the work was completed I would recommend that the \$5000 bond be released to him.

No photographs were taken and no GPS data was collected.

BLM Cedar City Field Office Site Inspection Report

April 11, 2003

To: UTU-80508 (formerly SITLA Volcanic Lease ML-40197)
Ranch Canyon Pumice Mine
Bradshaw Perlite & Pumice

From: Ed Ginouves, CCFO Mining Engineer

Subject: Site Inspection

On April 10, 2003, I conducted an inspection of the lands encompassed by former State Mineral lease ML-40197. The BLM acquired the lease as part of the SITLA lands exchanges through the West Desert Land Exchange Act of 2000 (PL 106-301). Portions of the SITLA mineral lease case file were provided to the BLM and the file information indicated that unreclaimed lease disturbances were present. The purpose of the inspection was to investigate the current status of any lease disturbances present as a means to direct the lessee regarding any reclamation necessary for bond release.

The weather was clear and warm and site conditions were snow free and dry.

Location and Access:

Reference the BLM Wah Wah Mtns. South and Beaver 1:100,000 land status maps, the USGS Bearskin Mtn. 7.5' topographic map, and the attached ArcView site map.

ML-40197 occupied Lot 1 of section 2, T. 28 S., R. 9 W., Beaver County. The lands fall within the Ranch Canyon drainage, on the northeast side of South Twin Mountain on the western side of the Mineral Mountains. To reach the site from the CCFO, take SR-130 from Cedar City to Minersville. At the intersection of SR-21 and SR-130 at the north end of Minersville, proceed north on SR-21 to the Soldier Pass Rd turnoff, which is ~ 1 mile south of the town of Milford. Proceed east on the Soldier Pass Road for 5.6 miles and turn north onto the Corral Canyon / upper Ranch Canyon Road. Stay on the main stem of this road, heading northeast for ~7 miles to a road junction in the bottom of the Ranch canyon drainage. From here refer to the attached site map. Travel time from Cedar City to the site is 1¼ hours.

Case History:

The following case history was derived from that portion of the SITLA mineral lease case file for the Bradshaw Pumice and Perlite volcanic mineral leases ML-40197, 40198, and 41352. ML-40197 encompassed Lot 1 of section 2, T. 28 S., R. 9 W. (53.32 acres); ML-40198 encompassed the W½SW¼ T. 27 S., R. 9 W., (80 acres); and ML-41352 encompassed the W½NW¼ of section 36, T. 27 S., R. 9 W. (80 acres). The case file information was made available to the BLM pursuant to the transfer of the section 2, T. 28 S., R. 9 W., from SITLA to the BLM through the West Desert Land Exchange Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-301, January 24, 2001).

ML-40197, ML-40198, and ML-41353 were cancelled in 1996 for failure to pay annual rentals. At the time of lease cancellation, the case file indicates that 5.9 acres of un-reclaimed surface disturbances remained on ML-40197. At the time of the land exchange, SITLA was holding a \$5,000 certificate of deposit to cover existing and proposed disturbances on the leased lands. The disposition of the certificate was still pending and so the BLM became the beneficiary of the certificate in August, 2002.

Surface Examination Report dated June 19, 1995 by William Stokes of SITLA provides excellent documentation on the status of the leased lands as of that date. Mr. Stokes report states that all

unreclaimed disturbances at that time were located on ML-40197. There has been no site activity since ~1996.

Geology: Sibbett and Nelson (1980, Geology of the Central Mineral Mountains, Beaver County, Utah) map the subject lands as being Tertiary-age biotite granite overlaid by Quaternary-age pyroclastics (non-welded ash flow tuffs, air fall, water laid and surge deposits). North Twin and South Twin Mountains, which lie north and south of the upper portions of Ranch Canyon, are Quaternary-aged rhyolite domes with perlite and pumice mantles. These domes are the source of the pumice deposits that underlie portions of the lease lands. The pits expose a partial cross section of the pumice deposits. Pumice fragments smaller than 1/2" predominate, but pumice pieces as large as 6" in size are present. The pumice is typically bright white.

Site Survey:

The features and disturbances noted in Mr. Stokes inspection of 1995 could be readily distinguished but the lack of site activity since ~1996 has made the appearance of these disturbed areas much less noticeable due to extensive growth of vegetation. Photographs of the disturbances were obtained from several vantage-points and are attached. As noted in Mr. Stokes inspection, the following items remain on the subject lands within Lot 1 of section 2:

- a wood frame structure with stucco exterior measuring 16' by 26' in plan area. The structure is unlocked and contains a couch, and a coal stove. There was no evidence that it was regularly inhabited. In a picnic area adjacent to the structure are two picnic tables, a 6' dia wooden cable spool table, and a 3' by 3' wooden outhouse. There was no evidence that the site receives anything but sporadic use.
- a junk Dodge D600 truck, ser # 1681213743. The truck is gutted and inoperable.
- ~1 ton of scrap iron, being pieces of former equipment and several (empty) 55 gal drums
- two junk tires, Toyo 20.5" X 25"

Lot 1 of section 2, T. 28 S., R. 9 W. encompasses several old mining-related disturbances. The disturbances were not surveyed but total perhaps 5 acres. The disturbed areas include three pumice pits, each of which has a highwall. The highwalls vary in height from 10' to 25' and are semi-stable, sluffing material seasonally due to weather. A variety of native plant species have re-established on these disturbed areas due to prolonged inactivity.

There were mining-related disturbances of significance found on former leases ML-40198 and ML-41353, this being the W1/2W1/2 of section 36, T. 27 S., R. 9 W.

Findings and Recommendations:

The structures should be demolished and items of personal property should be removed. Due to the advanced state of natural re-vegetation in the old mine areas and loadout, it may be preferable to leave these areas undisturbed. Except for the pit highwalls, the disturbed areas are stable to erosion. Re-disturbance of these areas to reduce or stabilize the highwall areas would entail ~3 acres of disturbance, all of which would take 5-10 years to re-vegetate to the current condition. It would be advantageous to block and rip the access road leading to the site, which would reduce public exposure to the highwall areas and accelerate natural re-vegetation of the disturbed areas.